(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up a new world class flying training institute at Gondia in Maharashtra under the aegies of Airports authority of India. Government also encourages promotion of new flying training institutes by others. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has received a number of applications for opening of flying training institutes and No Objection Certificate (NOC) in principle has been issued for 10 Institutes.

The number of trainees depends upon the infrastructure available *viz.* number of aircrafts, Flying Instructors and Ground Instructors proposed by the organizations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of the Indira Gandhi Rastriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilots per year and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.

Functioning of Dabolim Airport

*278. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dabolim airport in Goa has been made open for 24 hours for civilian operations;

(b) the number of applications, if any, received by Government from airlines services for their operation between 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Goa Airport belongs to the Indian Navy. Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave having Terminal Building and apron facilities for handling civil flights. These facilities are available on 24 hours basis. ATC services, which are provided by Indian Navy, are also available on 24 hour basis. However, civil flights are not permitted between 0830-1300 IST from Monday to Friday and between 1900-2130 IST on Tuesday and Thursday due to naval flying. At present, domestic scheduled flights operate between 0600-1930 IST, except during restricted hours as mentioned above. International charter flights operate during night and early morning hours as per the schedules approved jointly by DGCA/Naval Hqrs. and AAI.

(b) At persent, no request for operation of any new civil scheduled flights between 1930 hours and 0600 hours of next day has been received by AAI.

(c) Does not arise.

Sex tourism in India

*279. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of reports of increase in sex tourism in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is becoming international sex tourism destination and place of attraction for paedophiles;

(c) if so, what action is being taken to control and eliminate sex tourism; and

(d) whether the Ministry has formed some special groups to focus and fight growing sex tourism in States like Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Sex tourism in any form is an illegal activity in India. The Ministry of Tourism has advised all State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take necessary steps in order to prevent any such activity.

Increase in foreign debt of the country

†*280. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JFTHMALANI:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount foreign debt on the country is increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the amount foreign debt for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07; and

(c) the amount of interest paid on the foreign debt during the above said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The quantum of foreign debt of the country and its percentage increase for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given in statement (*See* below).

Statement-I

External Debt

	(US $ million)		(Rs. crore)*	
At end-March	Amount	Increase(%)	Amount	Increase (%)
1	2	3	4	5
2004	111,645		491,078	
2005	124,160	11.2	544.587	10.9
2006	127,623	2.8	569,672	4.6
2007	156,649	22.7	682,904	19.9

*At end-period exchange rates.

(c) the amount of interest paid on foreign debt during the above periods, year-wise, is given in Statement-II

Statement-II

Interest Paid on External Debt

	Amount	
Financial Year	(US $ million)	(Rs. crore)*
1	2	3
2004-05	3,803	17,087
2005-06	5,487	24,291
2006-07	5,534	25,058

* At yearly average rates.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.